Excise Duty and Income Tax dues against M/s. Bhadrachalam Paper Board Limited

287 SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the show-cause notices for the recovery of excise duty and income-tax issued to M/s. Bhadrachalam Paper Boards Limited (I.T.C: Group) during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details of excise duty and income tax dues to be recovered against these notices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charging of interest on dues pending against M/s. I.T.C. Limited

288. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to charge any interest on the dues recoverable from M|s. I.T.C. Limited with regard to excise duty cases for which show cause notices have been issued and recovery is pending decision by various Courts for a long time; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder do not provide for charging of interest on excise duty for which show cause notices have been issued and its finalisation and recovery are pending decision by various Courts.

Flying of aircraft of Indian Airlines without trained cabin crews

289. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines authorities permitted the flying of aircraft to and from Calcutta Airport without trained cabin crews after the Airlines employees ceased work protesting against suspension of several members of the crew in the month of May, 1984;

(b) if so, who were the persons put on the aircraft as attendents and what training for the purpose they have received; and

(c) whether by such action the Airlines authorities have not violated the statutory safety rules in this regard and flew the aircraft with grave risk to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the requirements of the Director General of Civil Aviation, Cabin Crew should be given training in emergency operations. In order to have a stand-by team in case of a strike by the Cabin Crew, Indian Airlines have trained officers from the operations wing the technical wing and the Central Training Establishment etc. for emergency operations. These trained officers were utilised to perform the duties of the Cabin Crew. This does not constitute violation of any statutory safety rules.

Announcement regarding arrival/departure of aircraft

290. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airports have been provided with the latest communication system;

(b) if so, what is the difficulty being faced by the saff in informing the public at the airports of the exact time of arrival of any plane;

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardship being caused to the public due to the airports' inability to render this simple service; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the expensive modern communication facilities are proprely used for the benefit of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Adequate communication and navigational aids have been provided at various Airports to meet the requirements of the Airlines operating through them. Updating and modernising of the equipment is a continuing process.

(b) and (c) While it is the constant endeavour to keep the public at the Airport informed about the position of the flights, there are occasions when progressive delay on account of uncertain weather conditions and certain technical snags render it difficult for communication of information about the exact delay involved. There are also occasions when break-down in communication between different stations leads to delay in announcing such information.

(d) For proper utilisation of the equipment adequate training is imparted to the staff engaged on operating the equipment and coordination between different stations is maintained.

Representation from the Fishing Industry Regarding Direct Exports

291. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the fishing industry for consideration of their inability to export directly to foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to assist the fishing industry so that our marine exports do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Closing down of Losing Public Sector Concerns

292. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to close down chronically losing public sector concern; if so, the details of the proposal; and

(b) whether any list of such losing concerns has been drawn up by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The performance of the Central public enterprises including the chronically losing concerns are subjected to close review continously. Periodic performance review meetings are held at the level of Secretary or the Minister concerned and remedical steps as considered necessary to improve the performance are taken depending on the circumstances of each case. Proposals for closing down could be considered only in extremely rare cases. The emphasis, however, is to nurse back the sick units by extending necessary financial and other assistance. The list of enterprises which have incurred losses after/before tax in 1982-83 may be seen at Pages 53 & 54 of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey, 1982-83, placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1984.